

Message Text

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DEPT PLEASE PASS STAFFDEL RICHARD KAUFMAN JOINT
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EALR, UR, XH

SUBJECT: DER SPIEGEL COMMENTS ON CIA INTERNATIONAL
ENERGY STUDY

REF: (A) STATE 187197, (B) C-ER-7-5 1264

AUGUST 29, 1977 ISSUE DER SPIEGEL CARRIED ARTICLE
COMMENTING ON SUBJECT STUDY. ARTICLE CRITICIZES MAIN
POINTS OF STUDY AND MAKES FOLLOWING COMMENTARY:

"OBSERVERS OF THE SOVIET PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IN
WESTERN OIL COMPANIES AND INDEPENDENT ENERGY EXPERTS
ARE CONVINCED THAT THE CIA FORECAST IS BASED MORE ON
THE IMAGINATION OF AGENTS RATHER THAN ON A CLEAR-CUT
ANALYSIS. THEY DO NOT CONTEST THOUGH THAT THE
SOVIETS, BECAUSE OF THE UNFAVORABLE LOCATION OF NEW
OIL SOURCES, WILL HAVE TO OVERCOME ADDITIONAL
PRODUCTION PROBLEMS.

THE CIA CRITICS REJECT THE IDEA THAT THE USSR WILL
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HAVE ACUTE SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES. IN REGARD TO THE
PROBLEM OF FLOODING FOR INSTANCE, THE EASTERN
EUROPEAN SPECIALIST, JEREMY RUSSEL OF BRITISH SHELL,
HAS POINTED OUT THAT THE FLOODING OF WATER IN
SOVIET MINES WAS NOTHING NEW. DESPITE ALL SUCH
PROBLEMS, MOSCOW'S ENERGY OFFICIALS WERE CONTINUALLY
ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION GOALS FOR THE

WESTERN SIBERIAN OIL FIELDS OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

IN ADDITION, THE CIA UNDERESTIMATES THE PRODUCTIVENESS OF SOVIET FIELDS. FURTHERMORE, IN THE MEDIUM TERM ATOMIC ENERGY AND ESPECIALLY ABUNDANT GAS AND COAL RESERVES COULD PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARD RELIEVING THE BURDEN ON THE SOVIET OIL INDUSTRY. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS THE CIA STUDY IS MUCH TOO GLOOMY.

COMECON ANALYST ZBYNEK ZEMAN, GOES SO FAR AS TO BELIEVE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN THE USSR EVEN INDICATE THAT THE DAYS OF AMPLE ENERGY IN THE USSR ARE JUST NOW BEGINNING. "BY 1980, THE SOVIET UNION WILL HAVE A SURPLUS OF ENERGY", PREDICTS ZEMAN, "WHICH WILL BE NEARLY TWICE AS LARGE AS THE LEVEL OF SURPLUS IN 1975".

COPY OF SPIEGEL ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO KAUFMAN

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